



PLACER COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**  
CORONER-MARSHAL



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**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

**STEPHEN L. D'ARCY**  
UNDERSHERIFF

**PRESS RELEASE**

**UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE**

Date/Time of Release: **September 21, 2005 / 4 PM**  
Date/Time of Occurrence: **September 21, 2005 / 2:20 PM**  
Nature of Call: **Missing Inmate Worker Captured**  
Location of Call: **I-80 westbound at Ophir Road**  
Case Number: **SO-05-13922**  
Released by: **George Malim, Lieutenant 530-889-7862**

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**SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:**

The inmate worker who walked away from a Cal Trans work crew this afternoon was captured by detectives assigned to the Special Operations Unit.

Ross Dean Whitaker, 37, of West Sacramento, walked away from a Cal Trans work crew that was picking-up trash along westbound Interstate 80 near Ophir Road. A Placer County Sheriff's Correctional Officer was supervising the six-person crew. As soon as the officer noticed Whitaker missing, he began a hasty search and located Whitaker's hardhat, orange vest, and trash bag behind a guardrail.



**Ross Whitaker**

An extensive search was conducted both by air and on foot and included the use of a Sheriff's K-9. Whitaker was not found at that time.

At 4:55 PM, detectives spotted Whitaker in a driveway at Stonehouse Court and Ophir Road in the Ophir area. He was taken into custody without incident and returned to the jail. In addition to completing his current sentence he has been booked on an escape charge that has a bail of \$75,000. He will be housed in the main jail.

Whitaker had been serving his time in the jail's minimum security facility and was scheduled to be released on December 14, 2005.